

## **SB 250**

To the Committee Clerk and to whom it may concern,

Hello, my name is Suzanne Scala. I am currently a student in the Master of Arts in Art Therapy program at Albertus Magnus College, in New Haven, CT and a student member of the American Art Therapy Association. I am writing today in regards to the Public Hearing for CATA Bill SB-250. I will be unable to attend the hearing tomorrow, but I feel it is my professional duty to advocate for the professional distinction of Art Therapists through state licensure.

In 2012, I began my masters full-time at Albertus Magnus College to earn the title of art therapist and now, February 2015 and finishing my master level thesis, I do believe I EARNED that title. But wait! There is more as I am still not officially there! As hopeful art therapists, we must work post graduation to achieve hours upon hours of client contact and experience hours, secure an appropriate supervisor, sit for exams for counseling licensure and more! Forget about the monetary value of this title - it is the journey and the training we work toward that is key! For any person to be able to call him or herself an art therapist, without fully completing this journey, is extremely disheartening.

Before entering into this field, I had heard of art therapy in many different contexts. Most distinctly, I had heard an art student from a previous college calling herself an "art therapist" and using the title to procure clients. I thought, "wow, just like that - she's an art therapist!" I had not then known of the years, energy, money, effort, and, most importantly, the KNOWLEDGE that went into being an art therapist. I now know what a danger that can be for clients who assume they are entering into a client-therapist relationship without realizing the therapist is no therapist at all! I cringe to think of the potential damage or the let down of clients - all under the assumption that the person they entrusted was an "art therapist." These acts degrade all the work and the name of art therapy. It takes away the legitimacy of what we do. Art therapy is a fast growing field and with this growth it is essential to protect and educate the world about what art therapy is.

So with this letter, I implore you: please listen and hear my colleagues, professors, and friends tomorrow. It is imperative that art therapy have a distinct licensure through the state.

Thank you for your time.  
Sincerely,  
Suzanne Scala

Sent from my iPhone